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*China's exports fell in November by 2.2% compared with a year earlier. It was the first such decline in seven years. Overall, the country's economy is still expected to show growth of about 9% this year. Our Economics Correspondent Andrew Walker reports:*

China has been **hit** by the **sharp economic deterioration** in countries that buy its goods. Nearly half of China's **exports** go to developed countries, most of which are now probably **in recession**. So **there is less demand abroad for** Chinese goods.

The figures have been described by economists as dreadful and horrifying.

There was also an even sharper **decline** in China's **imports** - 18% compared with a year earlier. That in part **reflects** the fact that **weakening sales overseas** mean that the country's **manufacturers** have less need of imported raw materials.

Andrew Walker, BBC

## Vocabulary and definitions

<b>hit</b>	negatively affected
<b>sharp economic deterioration</b>	the quick and significant worsening of the state of the economy
<b>exports</b>	goods and services that a country sells to customers in other countries
<b>in recession</b>	experiencing a period of two consecutive quarters, i.e. six months, when a countries economy is doing badly
<b>there is less demand abroad for</b>	fewer people in other countries want to buy
<b>decline</b>	becoming smaller, shrinking
<b>imports</b>	goods and services that a country buys from businesses in other countries
<b>reflects</b>	is a result/consequence of
<b>weakening sales overseas</b>	fewer people in other countries who buy goods and services
<b>manufacturers</b>	producers of goods

More on this story: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/7774934.stm>

Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2008/12/081212\\_china\\_exports.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2008/12/081212_china_exports.shtml)